

# PUBLIC WORKS

# RULES & REGULATIONS

OF THE MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER

Adopted Pursuant to Article II  
of the Charter of the City & County  
of Denver and Section 2-91 et seq.  
of the Revised Municipal Code

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GOVERNING THE PREPARATION, STORAGE,  
AND COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD AND  
YARD RUBBISH

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*Daniel E. Muse*

Approved as to form:

**Daniel E. Muse**

Attorney for the City & County of Denver

*Michael D. Musgrave*

Approved & Adopted:

October 15, 1993

**Michael D. Musgrave**

Manager of Public Works

## Rules & Regulations

- I. Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling - The Department of Public Works encourages reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste by all Denver residents through utilization of recycling centers, participation in the curbside collection program where available, composting of yard waste, and diversion of useable appliances, clothing, and furniture to charitable organizations.
  
- II. Terms and Definitions
  - A. Authorized Residence - a housing structure used for human habitation located within the corporate limits of the City and County of Denver and being:
    1. Single family units, or
    2. Multiple dwellings designed for and occupied as seven units or less; and
    3. Townhomes or row homes not more than two stories in height above ground level with exclusive entries for each unit.
  
  - B. Prescribed Containers
    1. Trash cans - household rubbish containers of 32 (thirty-two) gallon capacity or less (made from galvanized metal or plastic), with lids and handles.
    2. Plastic bags - with a maximum capacity of 32 (thirty-two) gallons or less, a thickness of 1.5 mils, and securely tied closed.
    3. Dumpsters - City-supplied, 1.5 - 3 cubic yard metal trash containers commonly utilized in appropriate alleys.
    4. Barrels - City-issued, 90 (ninety) gallon, wheeled trash containers intended to be utilized by a single dwelling unit.
  
  - C. Collection types
    1. Manual collection - accomplished by manually emptying trash cans or plastic bags, etc., into appropriate collection trucks.
    2. Automated dumpster - accomplished by emptying dumpsters into an appropriate automated collection truck.
    3. Automated barrel - accomplished by emptying barrels into an appropriate collection truck.

- D. Acceptable yard waste - grass, leaves, and clippings in prescribed containers and branches cut and bundled into 4 (four) foot lengths with a width and weight that can be reasonably handled by one collector.
- E. Commercial waste - waste generated by dwelling units not defined as an authorized residence, or businesses.
- F. Authorized agency - the Solid Waste Management division of the Department of Public Works.
- G. Authorized representative - supervisory or inspection personnel from the authorized agency or other persons designated by the Manager of Public Works.
- H. Non-collectible items - hazardous waste, oil, liquids, hot ashes, tree stumps, auto parts, commercial waste, railroad ties, concrete, rocks, sod, soil, building material, demolition debris, branches over 4 (four) feet in length, or any other material identified by an authorized representative.
- I. Large items - furniture, appliances, branches (properly prepared), and other reasonable items not specifically identified as non-collectable and that can safely be handled by collectors.
- J. Hours of collection - between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. depending on route schedule, or until finished.
- K. Manager - Manager of Public Works.

III. Collection of Rubbish - Collection of rubbish shall be made weekly, by the authorized agency, in accordance with the plan and schedule of the Manager. Collection shall be made from authorized residences only and subject to the following:

- A. The collection type and prescribed containers shall be determined by an authorized representative of the authorized agency and approved by the Manager. The collection type, prescribed containers, and day of service may be changed at the discretion of the same, with sufficient notice to residents in order to correct safety concerns, improve productivity and service levels, or for any other appropriate reason.
- B. Trash cans must be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition and must be free from ragged or sharp edges or any other condition which may hamper or cause injury to collectors. Unsafe trash cans must be replaced upon notification.
- C. Use of City-owned dumpsters by non-residents of the City and County of Denver for commercial waste is prohibited.
- D. The use of City-owned dumpsters is only for use by authorized residences which properties are contiguous to the alley right-of-way in which they are collected.
- E. Non-collectable items shall not be placed in any prescribed container.
- F. Collection Conditions - Rubbish collection may not be provided where:

1. Unsafe or non-prescribed containers are used or rubbish is outside of a prescribed container.
  2. Non-collectable items are placed in prescribed containers.
  3. A potentially dangerous condition exists, prescribed containers are not accessible, or where collection is determined to be impractical by the Manager or an authorized representative. Containers which are not prescribed containers will not be collected and the authorized residence will be notified.
- G. Large item collection will be on a seven-week rotation according to the schedule and instructions published in both major newspapers on the first day of even-numbered months. Large items will be collected from authorized residences only.
- H. Appliances which contain freon will be collected separately for reclamation of freon and recycling of the appliance. This separate collection will be accomplished on the same schedule as II.G., Large item collection.
- I. For authorized residences serviced by manual collection, rubbish in prescribed containers, and acceptable yard waste, must be placed no more than 5 (five) feet from the curb or edge of alley by the start of the hours of collection on the day designated for collection. For authorized residences serviced by automated dumpster collection, the full capacity of the barrel must be used with excess rubbish placed into trash cans or plastic bags next to but not closer than 3 (three) feet from the barrel. Acceptable yard waste may also be set out when necessary in the same fashion.
- J. In areas serviced by automated barrel collection, barrels must be placed in the flow line of the gutter by the start of hours of collection on the day designated for collection. Food, grass, and other waste which will create odor or attract insects or animals must be secured in a plastic bag before placement in a dumpster.
- K. Where collection of rubbish must be accomplished from non-dedicated streets or alleys, an easement and indemnity agreement must be in place which indemnifies the City from damages and claims resulting from such use.
- L. Every effort will be made to service all authorized residences weekly on a specified service day. During times of severe weather, which delays normal operations, collection will be made in the most expedient manner as determined by the Manager or authorized representative.
- M. All collection activities by private contractors, from authorized residences, must be scheduled and performed in a manner so as not to conflict with authorized agency efforts.

- IV. Enforcement of Rules and Regulations - Every attempt shall be made by an authorized agency representative to contact the violator and seek resolution of the violation. Conflicts and disputes arising from the enforcement of the rules and regulations shall be resolved by the Manager or an authorized representative. Repeated or gross violations may result in the issuance of a notice of violation up to and including a court summons.
- V. Disposal of Rubbish - Following collection, rubbish will be transported to a properly designated disposal rate as determined by the Manager or an authorized representative considering factors such as route efficiency and costs.
- VI. Situations arising during normal day-to-day operations and not specifically addressed in this document shall be resolved by an authorized representative. Unresolved disputes shall be addressed to:  
Manager of Public Works  
City and County Building  
1437 Bannock Street #379  
Denver, Colorado 80202